Crop outlook great

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

My accessment of crop condition in Appomattox County is that at this point we have the best prospects for corn, tobacco, soybeans, hay and pastures in many years.

Unofficially through last Friday afternoon we recorded 8.25 inches or rain this month.

* * *

Aphids are working on tobacco. They are very heavy in some fields. Work at the Southern Piedmont Research Station shows that Penncap M at one pound per acre using 24 gallons of water per acre through a D2-25 nozzle, using three over the top and 60 pounds of pressure gave the best results for aphids. It was emphasized tht aphid control was better at 60 psi pressure than at 40 or 80 psi; also low gallonage applications provided much less control.

Some are suggesting early morning or late afternoon are preferred treatment times because the leaves are turgent at these times.

* * *

Last week I participated in a field day on tobacco at the S.P.R.S. It was pointed out that 80% of tobacco grown in Virginia is treated with a soil insecticide and or a nenatacide. The concern is that for the past 3 years there has been a failure with soil applied insecticides.

Some exciting new work is being done with a new Bohrr and Haas compound and Temik, neither of which are labeled for tobacco. The RH compound provides excellent aphid, hornworm and flea beetle control. Some observers felt that this tobacco may have been a bit smaller earlier. Temik gave better insect control than Di-syston, on aphids it's excellent. The Furadan treatments were not as good as Temik or the RH compound. Temik treated plots had heavy hornworm infestations, possibly because the tobacco was more succulant or this insecticide killed off the predators.

Orethene can burn tobacco - don't exceed label recommendations. Work at S.P.R.S. showed good aphid and flea beetle control when Orthene was used in the transplant water at label rates, but reduced effectiveness when used at less than label recommendations. Diazi n o n and isotox gave no insect control in these tests.

* * *

Some recent work in the Tidewater area of Virginia shows high sodium content in drinking water ranging from 92mg to 414 mg per liter in different areas. Generally, 40 mg per liter is the maximum allowable amount of sodium in drinking water for those with normal blood pressure.

Death rates from strokes in the Tidewater area are 21 percent higher than the national average.

* * *

According to U. S. Soil Conservation Service more than 5.5 billion tons of this country's soil are lost each year to erosion - an amount that would cover the state of Iowa 1 inch deep.

* * *

Michigan studies show that protein and digestable dry matter were reduced by 1.7 and 4.7 percentage points respectively for each 10% leaf loss caused by improper harvesting of alfalfa. Dairymen milking 60 cows added over $3000 income by harvesting alfalfa at 1/10 bloom rather than at full-bloom.

* * *

These warm months are ideal time for insects to take their toll of stored grain. Chemical treatment is a necessity.

Insect prevention begins with sanitation - remove all old grain and thoroughly clean the storage area. Both inside and outside surfaces of the bin should be sprayed with a recommended insecticide. Cracks, crevices and areas around doorways require special consideration.

Grain needs to be treated going into storage and a surface treatment is useful.

I believe that an important key is to throughly inspect all stored grain monthly.

EIMAN COLLINS, CHARLOTTE COUNTY Fire-cured tobacco producer and L.T. Richardson, Charlotte Extension Agent, admire a good crop of Brown Leaf Tobacco . This 1.5 acre field was planted May 16 and fertilized with 2000 pounds of 5-9-9 and side dressed with 300 pounds of 5-0-26. All of the tobacco has been topped out at 12 to 13 leaves. Collins said, "I'm hoping for 2500 pounds that sells for $2.00 a pound. The tobacco should be ready for the knife in about two weeks."

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Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

4-H'ers will have the opportunity to build model rockets on August 18. A session for beginners and advanced rocket builders will be held. Details and a sign-up sheet have been sent to all 4-H'ers in a special newsletter. If you do not receive a newsletter and would like to take part in the model rocket workshop, please call the Extension Office.

* * *

Young people still have a chance to sign up for the 4-H Sewing Classes at Oakville School which will be held during the week of August 10-14. 4-H'ers taking part in the sewing classes will need to bring a simple pattern, fabric (already washed) and sewing supplies such as scissors, pins, needles, tape measure, etc. If you have questions about the sewing classes, give us a call.

* * *

The East Central District 4-H All Star Weekend was held at Camp Hat Creek near Brookneal over the past weekend. Five Appomattox 4-H'ers were inititated as new members of the 4-H All Stars. Included among these individuals are: Jane Guill, Blair Smith, Laurie Cowan, Laura Walton and Susan Shorter. The 4-H All Star award is based on the work completed during a member's years in 4-H. It also includes the individual's leadership abilities.

* * *

A special canning contest for 4-H members will be held on Thursday, August 20, at the ACHS Cafeteria. 4-H'ers who have helped with the home canning this summer are encouraged to participate. Classes will be vegetables, fruits, pickles and relishes and jams and jellies. Exhibits must be entered by 10:00 a.m. on the 20th. Details are available from the Extension Office.

* * *

Senior 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to apply for the new 4-H Ambassador Program. The 4-H Ambassador Program in East Central District will include one older 4-H'er from each county to serve as a spokesperson for 4-H. Applications and details are available from the Extension Office.

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Oakville news

A family cookout was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Drinkard Sunday honoring Mrs. Drinkard's birthday. Those attending in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Drinkard, Mrs. Annie Walker Harding, Mr. Benny Drinkard were: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Drinkard, Denny and Denise, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Wells, Renee, Anita and Sheila, Mr. Malcolm Drinkard, Tammy Marsh, Angela Powell (Madison Heights).

A family cookout was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Drinkard Sunday honoring Mrs. Drinkard's birthday. Those attending in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Drinkard, Mrs. Annie Walker Harding, Mr. Benny Drinkard were: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Drinkard, Denny and Denise, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Wells, Renee, Anita and Sheila, Mr. Malcolm Drinkard, Tammy Marsh, Angela Powell (Madison Heights).

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Burcher spent the weekend in Newport News with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Burcher.

Mrs. Alice Drinkard, Mrs. Margaret Lee, Mrs. Forrest Marshall, Mrs. Grace Miner (Pamplin) attended the Extension Homemakers Conference at Blackstone, July 21-23. Theme of the meeting, "Forward Together".

Mrs. Graydon Martin, Mrs. Hubbard Moore were weekend guests of Mr. Warren Martin and Mr. Neil Cliff at Wintergreen, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Drinkard, Mary Beth and Lee visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Williamson Sunday, p.m.

Our hearts are saddened by the death of Mrs. Clarence Moore. Sympathy extended to family and friends.

Revival begins at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Sunday, Aug. 2 at 8:00 pm.

Pastor Rev. Camden and guest speaker Rev. Raymond Kelly from Pembrooke, Va. On Wednesday at 6:30 the Adult Class will serve a covered dish dinner.

Reverend Camden attended the extra-curricula classes for ministers at Ferrum College last week.

Mrs. David Camden and daughter, MissJoselyn Camden (Christiansburg) toured to Louisana last week to visit several members of the family there. They reported a lovely trip.

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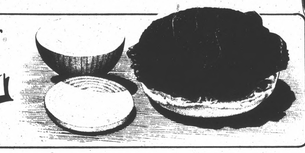

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